

At a Session of ASSEMBLY begun and held at the City of *Annapolis*, in the County of *Ann-Arundel*, the 17th Day of *July*, and ended the 10th Day of *August*, in the * Second Year of the Dominion of the Right Honourable CHARLES, absolute Lord and Proprietary of the Provinces of *Maryland* and *Avalon*, Lord Baron of *Baltimore*, &c. *Annoq; Domini* 1716, were Enacted the Laws following, *viz.*

* The Commission to Governor *Hart*, from the Lords *Baltimore* and *Guilford*, is dated 30th *May*, 1715, as recorded in the Secretary's Office, *Lib. T. P. fol. 350*, which being the first Act of Proprietary Government, after its being restored by the Crown, the Year of his Lordship's Dominion is here dated accordingly.

JOHN HART, Esq; Governor.

C H A P. I.

Passed 10th
August 1716.

An ACT for repairing the Damages already sustained in the Records of the Land, Secretary's, Commissary's, and County Court Offices; and for the Security of the same Records for the future. *Lib. LL. N^o 4. fol. 284.*

Supplementary and other Acts relating to the Records are, 1722, *ch. 14*; 1742, *ch. 10*; 1747, *ch. 3*; and 1748, *ch. 7*.

Preamble, setting forth the bad State of the Records, &c.

WHEREAS upon a View and Enquiry into the Records of the Land, Secretary's, Commissary's, and County Court Offices of this Province, it appears, that sundry Matters which have been Recorded therein, are entirely lost, to the great Prejudice of those concerned; and a great Part of such as remain, are so very much worn and damaged, that without a speedy Care is taken for their Amendment, it is like to prove of very ill and dangerous Consequences to the Inhabitants of this Province in general, the most valuable Part of their Estates entirely depending thereon. And forasmuch as the bad Circumstances of the Records of the Land, Secretary's, and Commissary's Offices, are owing, as well to the Damages they sustained by transporting them from *St. Mary's* to this City, as to the Negligence of the several Officers and Clerks that have hitherto been entrusted therewith, and the Want of good and sufficient Books at first, they not being under any Obligation or Penalty to find such Books, or to keep them in due Repair, notwithstanding they have received the full Profits and Benefits of the several Offices they were entrusted with: For Remedy whereof for the future, and that the Records of the several Offices as aforesaid, that stand in need of any Amendments and Reparations, may be speedily and sufficiently amended and repaired, in the best Manner that is possible, at the Charge of the Public, and respective Counties; and that after such Reparations as aforesaid, the several Officers and Clerks that shall from Time to Time be entrusted with any the several Records aforesaid, and shall reap the Profits and Benefits of such their Offices, be obliged to find good and sufficient Books for the future, and look after and maintain the Record-Books committed to their Care, in such Order and Reparation, from Time to Time, as they shall receive them.

Commissioners appointed to inspect the Records in the Land,

II. Be it Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and by the Authority of the same, That Lieutenant-Colonel *Samuel Young*, Mr. *Joseph Hill*, Mr. *Benjamin Tasker*, and Mr. *John Beale*, or any